

Willow Springs Worship recorded for July 19, 2020

Call to Worship Psalm 18:1-3

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

Songs: Praise the One Who breaks the darkness SS#1 God of Eve and God of Mary HWB#492

Prayer: God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. The Lord asks, “Do you love me?”

When we fail to love one another, we do not know you as we say we do.

The Lord asks, “Do you love me?”

We have lied when we say we love you, but hold hatred and resentment toward our brothers and sisters.

The Lord asks, “Do you love me?”

Lord, you know we love you, but we love because you first loved us. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is complete in us. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. Love has been completed among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but complete love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached complete love. We love because he first loved us.

Song: Like a mother who has borne us SJ#91

Children’s time: Imagine I take a peice of yarn and tie your hands together at the wrists. You would be stuck. Or, another word we find in the Bible, you would be in bondage. You could do some things OK with your hands tied. But, there would be many things that would be hard to do. Like putting some pants on or a tee shirt. It would be a challenge to get the cereal out and pour it into the bowl. It could be done for it would be a bit tricky. Sometimes we find ourselves a bit tied up by ways we are thinking or how we’ve treated someone. It’s not how life should be.

But we have hope. Jesus comes to us to set us free from sin and death or, the things that tie us up. Jesus is like a sissors to set us free. With the yarn cut we can really live freely again. That’s how it should be. Not tie up trying to live with the bondage.

Pray: Thanks Lord that we can think about times we get stuck or in bondage. Then we can realize, you are alive to help us. Thanks you that we are not stuck. We come to you to set us

free from fear, insecurity, our own thoughts we can go through life on our own. Thanks in the freedom of the yard cut off of our wrists we can really live!

Scripture: 1 John 5:13-21, Romans 7:21-8:4, Col. 2:13-15 - The Message

1 John 5:13-21

The Reality, Not the Illusion

13-15 My purpose in writing is simply this: that you who believe in God's Son will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you have eternal life, the reality and not the illusion. And how bold and free we then become in his presence, freely asking according to his will, sure that he's listening. And if we're confident that he's listening, we know that what we've asked for is as good as ours.

16-17 For instance, if we see a Christian believer sinning (clearly I'm not talking about those who make a practice of sin in a way that is "fatal," leading to eternal death), we ask for God's help and he gladly gives it, gives life to the sinner whose sin is not fatal. There is such a thing as a fatal sin, and I'm not urging you to pray about that. Everything we do wrong is sin, but not all sin is fatal.

18-21 We know that none of the God-begotten makes a practice of sin—fatal sin. The God-begotten are also the God-protected. The Evil One can't lay a hand on them. We know that we are held firm by God; it's only the people of the world who continue in the grip of the Evil One. And we know that the Son of God came so we could recognize and understand the truth of God—what a gift!—and we are living in the Truth itself, in God's Son, Jesus Christ. This Jesus is both True God and Real Life. Dear children, be on guard against all clever facsimiles.

Romans 7:21-8:4

21-23 It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

24 I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

25 The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

The Solution Is Life on God's Terms

8 1-2 With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.

3-4 God went for the jugular when he sent his own Son. He didn't deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In his Son, Jesus, he personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all. The law code, weakened as it always was by fractured human nature, could never have done that.

The law always ended up being used as a Band-Aid on sin instead of a deep healing of it. And now what the law code asked for but we couldn't deliver is accomplished as we, instead of redoubling our own efforts, simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us.

Col. 2:11-15

11-15 Entering into this fullness is not something you figure out or achieve. It's not a matter of being circumcised or keeping a long list of laws. No, you're already in—insiders—not through some secretive initiation rite but rather through what Christ has already gone through for you, destroying the power of sin. If it's an initiation ritual you're after, you've already been through it by submitting to baptism. Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross. He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.

Sermon: Not Stuck in Sin But Liberation to Live

Songs: I'm so glad Jesus set me free
I will sing of my Redeemer HWB#344

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

The Lord walks with us these days in all the unanswered questions in our lives and around the world! Pandemic. Economy. Striving for a just society. Normal challenges and other disappointments in life.

For transformation of the systems we live into toward a just society.

May your presence work: in the protestors message, in family groups, in community leaders and government leaders for transformation away from racism in us and among us.

Prayer for many impacted by the coronavirus:

- +**Health care workers, and other leaders in care centers.**
- +**Neighbors near and far.**
- +**The unemployed.**
- +**Small business owners.**
- +**Those with the virus.**
- +**Those with other illnesses.**
- +**People around the world grieving the loss of a loved one.**
- +**The poor and homeless.**
- +**All in developing countries.**
- +**Societal and cultural institutions.**
- +**National leaders all over the world.**
- +**Postal and retail workers**
- + **The moments towards a new normal.**

We offer our lives to the Lord for encounters of life in the midst of the pressure and stress of the CV19 challenges.

Offerings can be mailed to Willow Springs at PO BOX 386, Tiskilwa, 61368

Song: He paid a debt (instrumental)

Benediction:

For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock,
except our God?- the God who equipped me with
strength and made my way blameless.

We journey in freedom by love and peace.

Amen.